

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 /090 W
-----041302 251434Z /45

O 251422Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5988
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T CAIRO 06131

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, OAU, ET, SO, IR, EG, MASS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET OBSTACLES TO EGYPTIAN SHIPMENTS
- TO SOMALIA

REF: (A) STATE 47224, (B) TEHRAN 1763

1. WE HAVE NOTED SADAT'S ALLEGED CLAIM TO IRANIAN
AMBASSADOR THAT SOVIETS ARE PLACING OBSTACLES TO EGYPTIAN
SEABORNE SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA (REF B). THAT WAS FIRST
TIME WE HAD EVER HEARD SUCH CLAIM. NEITHER SADAT NOR
MUBARAK NOR ANY OTHER EGYPTIAN OFFICIAL, IN THEIR FREQUENT
TALKS WITH US ABOUT SOMALIA, HAS SUGGESTED ANY SOVIET
EFFORT TO BLOCK EGYPTIAN SHIPMENTS. SENIOR EGYPTIAN
MILITARY OFFICER, WHO SHOULD BE IN POSITION TO KNOW,
STATED CATEGORICALLY TO DATT A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THERE
HAS BEEN NO SOVIET HARASSMENT OF ARMS SHIPMENTS.

2. IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE AND EVEN LIKELY THAT, WITH
SOVIET WAR VESSELS OFF BERBERA, THE EGYPTIANS CONSIDER
THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET INTERFERENCE WITH SEABORNE
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ARMS SHIPMENTS TO SOMALIA EXISTS. MORE LIKELY, HOWEVER,
THE GOE IS USING THIS TO JUSTIFY TO SOMALIS AND OTHERS
ITS RECENT TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ARMS SHIPMENTS TO
SOMALIA. EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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